

Claims

1-23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A method of suppressing an immune response in an inflammatory ~~arthropathy~~ arthritis in a subject comprising administering to a subject having an inflammatory ~~arthropathy~~ arthritis a therapeutically effective amount of a substantially pure or isolated oligodeoxynucleotide of up to 100 nucleotides in length comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 2 and an additional anti-inflammatory agent, immunosuppressive agent or anti-arthritis agent

thereby suppressing the immune response in the inflammatory ~~arthropathy~~ arthritis in the subject.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide is administered topically, parenterally, orally, intravenously, intra-muscularly, sub-cutaneously, or intra-articularly.

26-33. (Canceled).

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide consists of the nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 2.

35-36. (Canceled).

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~oligodeoxynucleotide~~ method of claim 24, wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide further comprises a CpG motif, and comprises at least one TTAGGG motif 5' to the CpG motif.

38. (Currently Amended) The ~~oligodeoxynucleotide~~ method of claim 24, wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide further comprises a CpG motif, comprises a TTAGGG motif 3' to the CpG motif, and wherein the TTAGGG motif is separated from the CpG motif by at least ten nucleotides.

39. (Canceled).

40. (Canceled).

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[40]] 24, wherein the anti-inflammatory agent, immunosuppressive agent or anti-arthritis agent is a biological response modifier, a disease-modifying antirheumatic drug, a steroid, a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, or a Cyclo-Oxygenase-2 inhibitor.

42. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 40, wherein the anti-inflammatory agent, immunosuppressive or anti-arthritis agent is anakinra, etanercept, infliximab, leflunomide, prednisone, cortisone, celecoxib, choline magnesium trisalicylate, diclofenac, diclofenac potassium, diclofenac XR, diflunisal, etodolac, etodolac ER, fenoprofen, flurbiprofen oral, ibuprofen, indomethacin, indomethacin SR, indomethacin suppositories, ketoprofen, ketoprofen ER, meclofenamate, meloxicam, nabumetone, naproxen, naproxen CR, naproxen ER, oxaprozin, piroxicam, rofecoxib, salsalate, sulindac, or tolmetin sodium, hyaluronan, or hylan G-F20.

43. (Currently Amended) A method of suppressing an immune response in an inflammatory ~~arthropathy~~ arthritis in a subject comprising contacting immune cells with a therapeutically effective amount of a substantially pure or isolated oligodeoxynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 2, and transferring the immune cells to a subject having inflammatory ~~arthropathy~~ arthritis, thereby suppressing the immune response in the inflammatory ~~arthropathy~~ arthritis in the subject.

44.-50. (Canceled).

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide is modified to prevent degradation.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide comprises a phosphate backbone modification.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide consists of the nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 2.

54. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide is modified to prevent degradation.

55. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide comprises a phosphate backbone modification.

56. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the oligodeoxynucleotide consists of SEQ ID NO: 2.